

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

As an initial observation, applicants note that a petition under 37 CFR §1.47(a) is being submitted concurrently to the Office of Petitions in order to address the objection to the executed Declarations.

Following amendment, claims 38-50 remain in this application. Claims 1-37 have been canceled and claims 38-50 have been added to address each and every grounds for rejection under 35 USC §§101 and 112, paragraph 2 cited in the Office action. Specifically, it is believed that formatting the claims as computer software *de facto* satisfies the technical content requirement of §101 where the computer software substantively perform the process steps. In addition, applicants have cancelled a majority of claims 1-37 and amended the remaining claims to remove any ambiguities under §112, paragraph 2. Applicants kindly note that the MPEP and general patent drafting principles allow the applicants to widely define terms as desired in the specification, even where the chosen definition may be inconsistent to general use, and that the terms and expression used in the claims are generally taken directly from the specification. Nevertheless, applicants have tried very hard to express the present invention as clearly as possible and to address each and every objection noted in the Office action.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner considers the above-noted amendment when the application is examined on its merits and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. In particular, applicants would be highly appreciative of any assistance that the Examiner may offer in terms of correct claim formatting and word choice as needed to reach examination of the present invention on the merits.

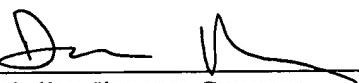
Application No. 09/517,977  
Amendment dated June 13, 2005  
In Reply to Office Action mailed January 13, 2005

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1349.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOGAN & HARTSON LLP**

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